

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS AND LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-9 Canceled.

10. (Original) A hinge structure for connecting two members to accommodate movement between an open position and a closed position, said structure comprising:

an elastomeric element extending from one of said members to the other of said members; said elastomeric element having an outer surface that is (1) outwardly exposed when said two members are in said closed position as well as when said two members are in said open position, and (2) in tension when said two members are in said closed position; said elastomeric element having an inner surface that is exposed to face away from said two members when said two members are in said open position and that faces inwardly toward said two members when said two members are in said closed position; said elastomeric element inner surface being in compression when said two members are in said closed position; and said elastomeric element exerting a force to urge said two members from said closed position toward said open position.

11. (Original) The hinge structure in accordance with claim 10 in which said elastomeric element has two transverse end faces;

one of said two end faces is bonded to one of said two members; and

the other of said two end faces is bonded to the other of said two members.

12. (Original) The hinge structure in accordance with claim 10 in which said elastomeric element is bi-injection molded with said two members.

13. (Original) The hinge structure in accordance with claim 10 in which said hinge structure is adapted for a closure for a container opening wherein said closure includes (1) one of said two members functioning as a base for mounting to said container over said opening and defining a discharge aperture communicating with said opening, and (2) the other of said two members functioning as a lid movable between a closed position occluding said aperture and an open position spaced from said aperture.

14. (New) The hinge structure in accordance with claim 10 in which each of said two members is a generally rigid structure molded from a thermoplastic polymer; and

said elastomeric element is a generally elastic structure comprising a thermoplastic elastomer rubber which has been bi-injection molded with said two members.

15. (New) The hinge structure in accordance with claim 10 in which said elastomeric element accommodates movement of at least one of said two members generally about an axis between said open and closed positions;

said exposed inner surface of said elastomeric element is oriented generally parallel to said axis; and

said elastomeric element urges said two members from said closed position toward said open position throughout the entire range of said movement of said members between said closed position and said open position.

16. (New) The hinge structure in accordance with claim 10 in which said elastomeric element has two lateral margins, and said hinge structure is free of structure laterally of said elastomeric element so that said two lateral margins are laterally exposed when said two members are in said closed position as well as when said two members are in said open position.